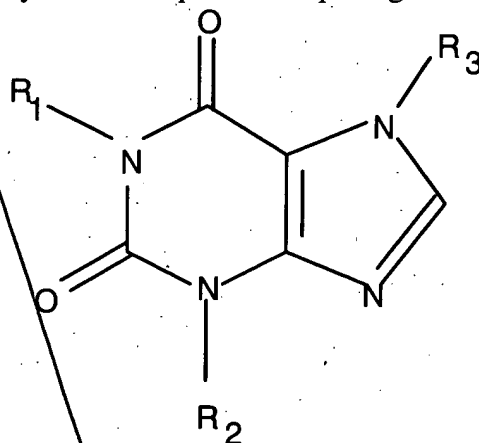
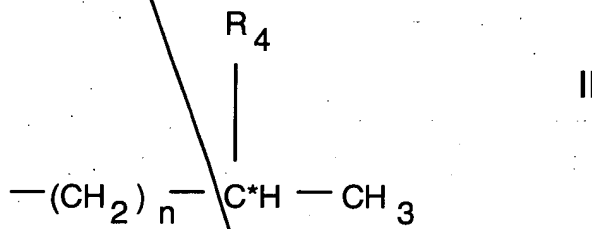


We claim:

1. A selectively stable compound comprising the formula I:



wherein one of R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub> is independently an aliphatic hydrocarbon having the formula II:



R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub>, which is other than formula II, and R<sub>3</sub> are independently C<sub>(1-12)</sub> alkyl; and wherein:

C\* is a chiral carbon atom;

n is an integer from about four to about eight;

R<sub>4</sub> is an amino acid or carbohydrate attached to the chiral carbon atom C\* by an ester linkage, or -O-X-(R<sub>5</sub>)<sub>m</sub>; m being two or three and X being selected from the group consisting of C, P or S; wherein:

R<sub>5</sub> is a member selected from the group consisting of:

hydrogen atom;

hydroxyl group;

=O;

substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> oxoalkyl, or C<sub>(1-10)</sub> acetoxyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> carboxyalkyl or C<sub>(1-10)</sub> hydroxyalkyl group;

-OR<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> being a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkenyl or C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkynyl, or C<sub>(1-10)</sub> oxoalkyl; and

A<sup>2</sup>  
cont  
substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or heterocyclic group having from one- to three-  
rings, each ring containing from four to seven atoms.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein the amino acid is selected from the group  
consisting of: alaninyl, argininyl, asparaginy, aspartyl, cysteinyl, glutaminyl, glutamyl, glyciny,  
J 1 5  
histidinyl, isoleucinyl, leucinyl, lysinyl, methioninyl, phenylalaninyl, prolinyl, serinyl, threoninyl,  
tryptophanyl, tyrosinyl and valinyl.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate is selected from the group  
consisting of: glucosyl, glucosidyl, maltosyl, glucopyranosidyl, glyceraldehydyl, erythrosyl,  
arabinosyl, ribolucosyl, fructosyl, erythritolyl, xylosyl, lyxosyl, allosyl, altrosyl, mannosyl,  
10  
mannosidyl, gulosyl, idosyl, galactosyl and talosyl.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein X is C.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein m is two and at least one R<sub>5</sub> is =O.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein substituents for the substituted C<sub>(1-10)</sub>  
alkyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> oxoalkyl, or C<sub>(1-10)</sub>  
Acetoxyl, cyclic or heterocyclic groups are selected from the group consisting of amido, amino,  
15  
C<sub>(1-6)</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>(1-6)</sub> alkyl, C<sub>(1-6)</sub> alkoxy, primary, secondary or tertiary C<sub>(1-6)</sub>  
hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>(1-6)</sub> oxoalkyl, azido, carbonyl, carboxylic acid, cyano, C<sub>(1-6)</sub> haloalkyl,  
isocyano, isothiocyano, phosphatyl, phosphonatyl, sulfonatyl, sulfonyl, sulfoxyl, imino,  
thioamido, thiocarbonyl, thioalkoxy, thioloxoalkyl and thio groups or a single atom.

7. The compound of claim 6, wherein the C<sub>(1-6)</sub> haloalkyl is a mono-, di- or tri-  
haloalkyl and the C<sub>(1-6)</sub> alkoxy is a methoxy or ethoxy group.

8. The compound of claim 6, wherein the single atom is selected from the group  
consisting of chlorine, bromine, fluorine and oxygen.

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein the R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub>, other than formula II,  
contains one or two, nonadjacent oxygen atoms, each oxygen atom replacing a single carbon  
atom of the C<sub>(1-12)</sub> alkyl.

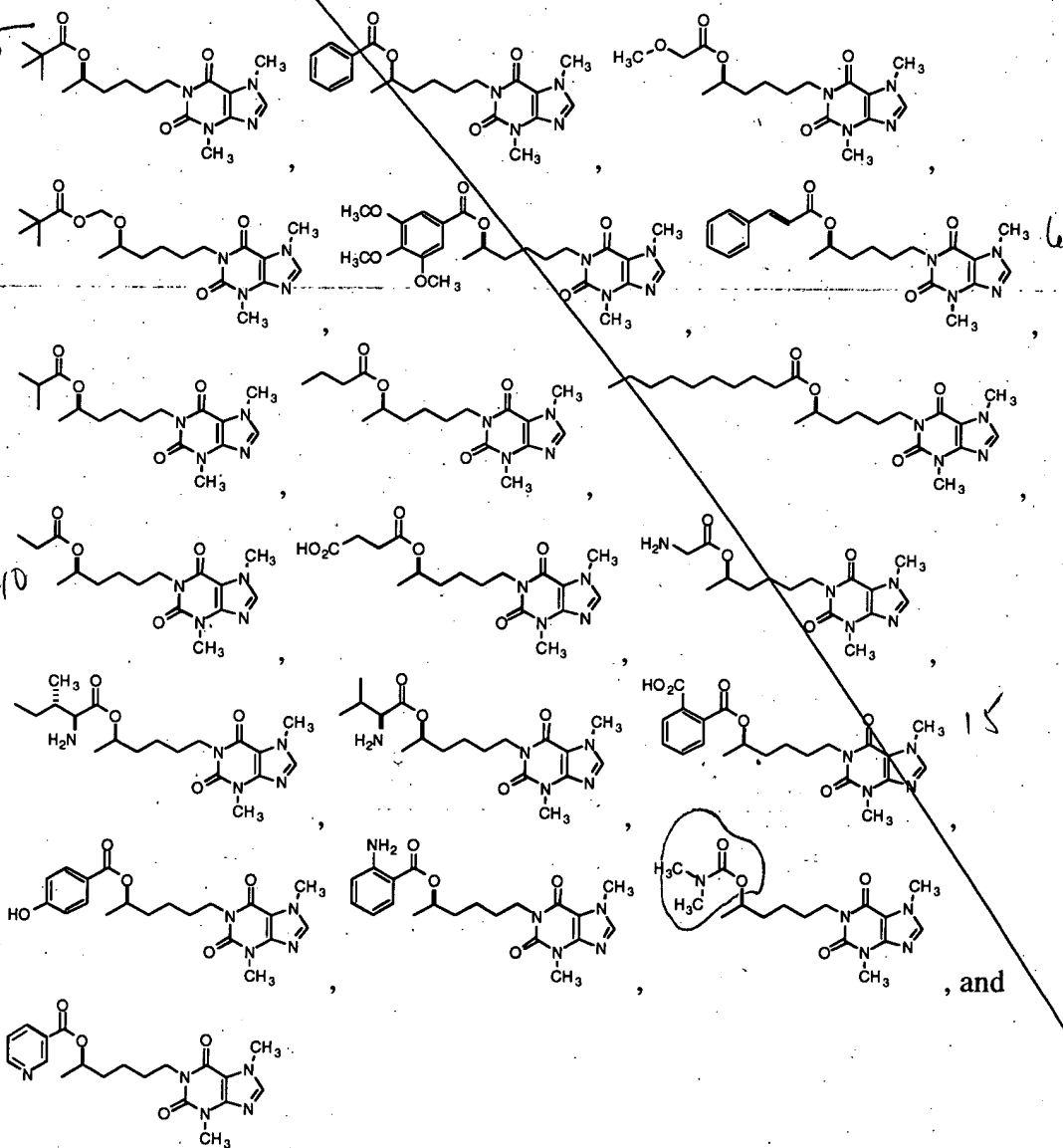
10. The compound of claim 1, wherein the cyclic or heterocyclic is selected from  
the group consisting of benzyl, phenyl, biphenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, cyclopentyl,  
nicotinyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclopentanedionyl, naphthalenyl, phenolyl, quinonyl, cyclopropyl,  
30  
cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, cycloheptenyl, indanyl, indenyl, decalyl, resorcinolyl, tetralinyl,  $\alpha$ -  
tetralonyl, 1-indanonyl, cyclohexanedionyl, cyclopentanedionyl, dimethylxanthinyl,  
methylxanthinyl, phthalimidyl, homophthalimidyl, methylbenzoyleneurea, quinazolinonyl,  
octylcarboxamidobenzyl, methylbenzamidyl, methyldioxotetrahydropteridinyl, glutarimidyl,  
A  
A  
A  
piperidonyl, succinimidyl, dimethoxybenzyl, methylhydouracil, methyluracil,  
35  
methylthyminyl, piperidinyl, dihydroxybenzenyl, methylpurinyl, methylxanthinyl and  
dimethylxanthinyl.

11. The compound of claim 1, wherein ~~n is 4~~, m is 2, and R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are methyl and at least one R<sub>5</sub> is =O.

12. The compound of claim 11, wherein the other R<sub>5</sub>, other than =O, is selected from the group consisting of trimethoxy-substituted phenyl, phenolyl and benzamino.

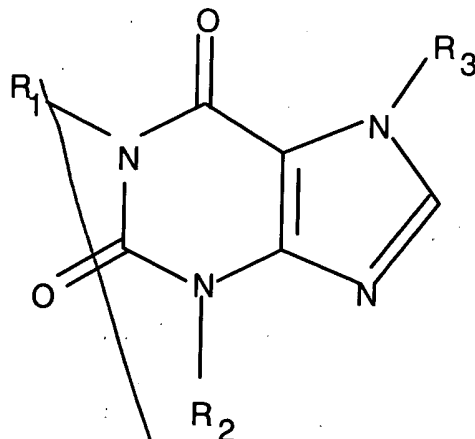
13. The compound of claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is glycyl, isoleucyl or valinyl.

14. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

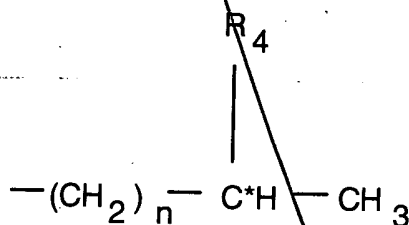


15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier and a compound having the following formula I:

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Cont



wherein one of R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub> is independently an aliphatic hydrocarbon having the formula II:



5. R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub>, which is other than formula II, and R<sub>3</sub> are independently C<sub>(1-12)</sub> alkyl; and wherein:

C\* is a chiral carbon atom;

n is an integer from about four to about eight;

- 10 R<sub>4</sub> is an amino acid or carbohydrate attached to the chiral carbon atom C\* by an ester linkage, or -O-X-(R<sub>5</sub>)<sub>m</sub>; m being two or three and X being selected from the group consisting of C, P or S; wherein:

R<sub>5</sub> is a member selected from the group consisting of:

hydrogen atom;

hydroxyl group;

- 15 =O;

substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> oxoalkyl, or C<sub>(1-10)</sub> acetoxyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> carboxyalkyl or C<sub>(1-10)</sub> hydroxyalkyl group;

- 20 -OR<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> being a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkyl, C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkenyl or C<sub>(1-10)</sub> alkynyl, or C<sub>(1-10)</sub> oxoalkyl; and

substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or heterocyclic group having from one- to three-rings, each ring containing from four to seven atoms.

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cont  
16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for oral administration.

17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein n is 4, R<sub>4</sub> is -O-X-(R<sub>5</sub>)<sub>m</sub>, m is 2, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are methyl and at least one R<sub>5</sub> is =O.

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18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein R<sub>5</sub> is selected from the group consisting of trimethoxy-substituted phenyl, phenolyl and benzamino.

cont  
19. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is glycyl, isoleucyl or valinyl.

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